

Thos. Ch. Mudge

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THE
SECOND REPORT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMITTEE of ASSOCIATION,

PRESENTED TO THE
GENERAL MEETING of the COUNTY of YORK,
Held on the 1st Day of January, 1784. *K*

TO WHICH ARE ADDED
An ACCOUNT of the PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWO COUNTY MEETINGS,

Held on the 17th of December, 1783, and on the 1st of January, 1784:

TOGETHER WITH THE
DEBATES on that of the 17th of DECEMBER.

Y O R K:

Printed by A. WARD, in Coney-Street. 1784.

THE
SECOND REPORT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED TO THE
GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY SOCIETY
Held on the 15th of January, 1884



TO
AN ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWO COUNTY MEETINGS

Held on the 15th of December, 1883, and on the 15th of January, 1884
TOGETHER WITH THE
DEBATES ON THAT OF THE 15th of December

Y O R K

Printed by A. WARD, in Covey Street, 1784

*Presented to the GENERAL MEETING of the COUNTY of YORK,
held on the 1st Day of January, 1784.*

On the 20th of December, 1782, the Committee, having given orders for circulating the Petition for a more Equal Representation, which had been adopted by the General Meeting of the County of York on the preceding day, in order to take the sense of the Freeholders of this extensive County upon the subject as completely as possible, declared unanimously their resolution to execute the trusts reposed in them by the County with unremit-
ted attention and zeal; and on the 21st of the same Month ad-
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journed,

journed, subject to a call by the Sub-committee, or the Chairman at the requisition of five members of the Committee.

On the 1st of October, 1783, the Committee, having been called together by the Chairman at the requisition of five members, re-resolved, according to the usual practice, to thank the Right Hon. William Pitt for his excellent propositions submitted to Parliament on the 7th of May, towards accomplishing a substantial redress of Parliamentary Abuses; to thank the two worthy Members of this County, and the other Hon. Members of the House of Commons, by whom Mr. Pitt's propositions on the 7th of May had been supported; and also proceeded to declare their opinion, that the rejection of those propositions on the 7th of May may chiefly be imputed to the operation of that ruinous political system, by which the Civil War with America had been lighted up; the British Empire dismembered; and the plan of parliamentary seduction carried to its last fatal extreme: And it was also considered by the Committee, that the re-admission of the abettors of such a system into power, was a most formidable obstacle to the necessary renovation of the constitution. But exhorting the people of Britain not to despair of the public weal, nor from an indiscriminate distrust of public men to sink into abject supineness, and a neglect of those legal means of defence by which the Constitution may yet be preserved, they called on every friend to the peace and freedom of the nation by vigorous and lawful efforts to support the Reformation of Parliament, and, confiding in the public spirit and unabated zeal of the Freeholders of the County of York, proposed a meeting of the County on the 8th of January, 1784, in order to represent to Parliament, if that should be thought expedient, in decent, but firm and manly terms of expostulation, the necessity for an effectual restoration of the Constitution.

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The Committee, having been adjourned on the 2d of October, 1783, met by a call of the Chairman on the 16th of December, 1783, and directed him to submit to the Freeholders at the County Meeting on the 17th of December, the propriety of renewing their application to Parliament for a more equitable Representation of the People at this County Meeting, instead of that proposed to be holden on the 8th of January, 1784. Which proposition having been agreed to by the County on the 17th of December, it was resolved at the adjourned Meeting of the Committee on the 18th of December, to countermand the intended call of the County on the 8th of January next.

To this circumstantial narrative of the proceedings of the Committee of Association, since their re-appointment on the 19th of December 1782, they wish to subjoin a few short Remarks, which they submit with the utmost deference to the judgment of their constituents: And first they beg leave to observe, That although Mr. Pitt's propositions on the 17th of May were negatived by a large majority in a full House of Commons, yet this circumstance ought not to discourage the County of York, because few, if any, of that majority denied the inequality of that representation complained of in your Petition; therefore, from the justice of Parliament, notwithstanding the opposition of corrupt, interested, or too suspicious men, redress may be expected on a future application: That the manly persevering spirit of the people may awe the corrupt and interested; and their steady constancy and prudence convince the honest, but too-suspectful part of their opponents, that their apprehensions of new and extravagant demands, to be grounded on the just and reasonable concessions of Parliament, are unsupported by any probable presumption drawn from the general temper of the County of York, or the friends of Reformation in other parts of the kingdom.

But the Committee own and lament that the respectable Senators who supported your question on the 7th of May, are not connected by any bond of political union, and that for near two years there has been a fluctuation of power, and a distracted state of our national counsels, peculiarly unfortunate to the Empire in its present weak and exhausted condition; but, mischievous as these dissensions may be in many regards, they may produce beneficial effects respecting the great business of Parliamentary Reform, which may more than counterbalance those evil consequences: for a little considerations may serve to evince to unprejudiced men, that where such distraction of counsels subsists there must be something disordered, something essentially wrong in the present state of the constitution. Under a preceding Administration stability had indeed been obtained for many years; but it was obtained by odious and detestable means, and prolonged to the disgrace and ruin of the Empire. Since that period there may have been wisdom, there may have been integrity, but there has been no permanence in the Cabinet. To give stability to Government on principles worthy of honest men, either to govern or to be governed by, the sound part of our Representation must be reinforced; if not, there is but too much reason to apprehend that revolution may succeed revolution, till the nation, tired of perpetual animosities and the conflict for power, may irrevocably plunge into the vortex of corruption, or, more wretched still, shelter itself under the stern protection of despotism: Allowing, therefore, to the most cautious man, that there is always some danger to be dreaded from innovation, He must now admit, in his turn, that greater, infinitely greater mischiefs may result from the acquiescence of the nation under the multiplied abuses of its present defective representation. That the late vicissitudes of power may have made impressions like these on many minds in different parts of this kingdom, you have some reason to conclude, from your
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own recent experience in this county; as many Persons, formerly averse to your measures, have now, from a conviction of their propriety, acceded to them. If a similar Conviction has taken place in other counties in any great degree, your application to Parliament will be renewed with additional weight, and a fairer prospect of success.

But if these encouraging appearances should prove fallacious; if from indolence, groundless jealousy, or as groundless despair, you should be ill-supported by the People at large; if your Petition should be rejected by Parliament, and Corruption should still prevail against the interests of the Country and the Friends of the Constitution, yet even then think not the cause of your country will be irrecoverably lost: For the generous spirit of our nation remains unimpaired; it still holds in abhorrence whatever is base and dishonourable. Corruption, in public as in private characters, must ever be the scorn and detestation of the virtuous; They must, therefore, approve the object of these meetings, and the necessity of popular interference must to them become more and more apparent: But what the wise and virtuous with a general concurrence approve and require, cannot long be withheld by an interested majority.

But if the worst should happen, and the mass of the nation should become so corrupted that Reformation should be alike incompatible with the vices of those who govern, and of those who are governed, YOU will have one consolation left, the best, if not the only comfort which the miserable state of your country would then admit; You will have acted with a noble consistency of conduct; You will have done your duty to the Public.

ACCOUNT of the PROCEEDINGS

*At the two Meetings which nominated and elected F. F. FOLJAMBE,
Esq; to represent the County of York in Parliament.*

AT a General Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of York (who have a right to vote at the election of a Knight to serve in Parliament for the said County) held at the Castle of York, in the said County, on Wednesday the 17th Day of December, 1783, pursuant to public notice given by the HIGH-SHERIFF, for the purpose of nominating a proper person to serve in Parliament for the said County, in the Place of Sir GEORGE SAVILE, Bart.

Resolved unanimously, That the warmest acknowledgments of this Meeting be offered to Sir GEORGE SAVILE, Bart. for the assiduity, integrity, and independence of his Parliamentary Conduct, signally manifested in his Representation of the County of York, during the space of twenty-five years; and that the deepest regret be expressed for that infirm state of his health which has obliged him to resign the important Trust he executed with so much Credit to himself and Advantage to the Public.

Resolved, That the High-Sheriff be requested to transmit the above Resolution to Sir George Savile, Bart. as the unanimous sense of this Meeting.

Resolved, That FRANCIS FERRAND FOLJAMBE, of Aldwarke, in this County, Esq; be put in nomination as a proper person to represent this County in Parliament in the Place of Sir George Savile, Bart.

Resolved

Resolved, (two only dissentient) That an application to Parliament be renewed by this County for a more Fair and Equitable Representation of the People.

Resolved unanimously, That Lord Surrey, Lord Fauconberg, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Mason, Mr. Tooker, Mr. Stanhope, and Mr. Wyvill shall be instructed to prepare a Petition, for the purpose named in the preceding Resolution, to be laid before the Freeholders of this County for their consideration at the ensuing Meeting of the County.

Resolved unanimously, That the Sheriff be requested to call a Meeting of the Freeholders of this County, to be held on the day of election (immediately after the choice of a Member) to consider of a Petition to Parliament for a more Fair and Equitable Representation of the People.

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High-Sheriff for his impartiality in conducting the business of this day.

ROBERT D'ARCY HILDYARD, SHERIFF.

(Mr. FOLJAMBE having been first unanimously elected)

AT a General Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of York, held at the Castle of York, on Thursday the 1st day of January, 1784, in pursuance of notice given by the Sheriff, agreeable to the requisition of the Freeholders of the said County at a public Meeting held at the same place the 17th day of December last,

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The Earl of Surrey presented the following Petition, prepared by the Committee of seven Gentlemen appointed for that purpose at the last County Meeting.

To the Honourable the COMMONS *of* GREAT-BRITAIN *in* PARLIAMENT *assembled.*

The Humble PETITION *of the* FREEHOLDERS *of the* COUNTY *of* YORK

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, sensible of the original excellence of the Constitution of this Country, most ardently wish to have it maintained upon the genuine principles on which it was founded.

Your Petitioners further shew, That it is necessary to the welfare of the People that the Commons' House of Parliament should have a common interest with the nation; and that, in the present state of the Representation of the People in Parliament, the Commons of this Realm are partially and inadequately represented, and consequently cannot have that security for their liberties which it is the aim of the Constitution to give them.

Your Petitioners therefore again renew their earnest supplications to this Honourable House, to take into their most serious consideration the present inadequate state of the Representation of the People in Parliament, and to apply such remedy to this great Constitutional Evil, as to this Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

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The foregoing Petition being read, it was

Resolved (with only four dissents) That the Petition, now read, be signed by the Sheriff, and any of the Freeholders present who approve thereof, on behalf of themselves and the other Freeholders of this county.

The Second Report of the Committee of Association for this County being presented by their Chairman, the Rev. Christopher Wyvill,

Resolved, That the same be now read, and the same being read accordingly,

Resolved, (with only four dissents) That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the Committee of Association be continued for the purposes of promoting such legal measures as may tend to obtain a more adequate Representation of the People, and a shorter Duration of Parliament; reduce the Influence of the Crown within proper bounds; and restrain the too lavish Expenditure of Public Money.

Resolved, (with only four dissents) That the Committee of Association be required to request the Sheriff, for the time being, to call a General Meeting of this County when it shall seem expedient; and when the Sheriff shall not comply with such request, that the Chairman of the Committee do call such Meeting in pursuance of the powers heretofore delegated to them.

Resolved, That the Representatives for this County be requested to present to Parliament the Petition agreed to and signed this day.

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Resolved

Resolved unanimously, That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that some public testimony should be given of the high approbation in which this County holds the eminently-able and disinterested services of Sir George Savile, Bart. during a laborious attendance of twenty-five successive years in Parliament, as a Representative for this County.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to determine upon a proper plan for effecting the purpose of the last Resolution, and that they be desired to be prepared with a design accordingly, to present to the Gentlemen of this County at the ensuing assizes.

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen shall compose the Committee, viz. Sir W. Milner, S. Croft, Esq; W. Danby, Esq; Lieut. Col. Thornton, Lieut. Col. O'Carroll, S. F. Barlow, Esq; R. Sinclair, Esq; J. Parker, Esq; and the Rev. T. Place.

ROBERT D'ARCY HILDYARD, SHERIFF.

DEBATES

D E B A T E S
AT A
G E N E R A L M E E T I N G
O F T H E
C O U N T Y o f Y O R K,

On the 17th of DECEMBER, 1783,

Called for the purpose of putting in nomination a proper person for representing the COUNTY of YORK in Parliament, in the room of Sir GEORGE SAVILE, Bart. who had declined that service on account of his ill state of health.

THE General Meeting of the Freeholders of this County, held at the Castle on the 17th of December, 1783, to nominate a proper person to represent this County, in the room of Sir George Savile, Bart. was numerous and respectable.

The High Sheriff, having taken the Chair, addressed the Meeting, and called their attention to the business for which they were convened, the nomination of a proper person to represent the County in Parliament in the room of Sir George Savile, whose virtues, abilities, and services he made the subject of a just and elegant panegyric,

panegyric, and concluded by moving, That the warmest acknowledgments of this Meeting be offered to Sir George Savile, Bart. for the assiduity, integrity, and independence of his Parliamentary conduct, signally manifested in his representation of the County of York, during the space of twenty-five years; and that the deepest regret be expressed for that infirm state of his health which has obliged him to resign the important trust he executed with so much credit to himself and advantage to the public.

Lord SURREY next rose, and, having first paid his tribute to the eminent worth of Sir George, and expressed what all men felt, the deepest regret for the ill state of health which obliged him to withdraw his Parliamentary Services from the County, proceeded to enumerate the qualifications which should be looked for in the man that should be put in nomination to succeed him: an unexceptionable private and domestic character, and where no great public character has been sustained, such unequivocal circumstances as should demonstrate his public principles. In the first of these no man was more happy than Mr. Foljambe, and of the second he had given such assurances as might render him safely to be relied on, for he had enrolled his name with those of numerous other most respectable persons, associated for the purpose of reforming the defective state of Parliamentary Representation, which his Lordship considered as the great source of corruption and all its consequences; he therefore moved, That F. F. Foljambe, of Aldwark, Esq; be put in nomination.

Mr. STANHOPE seconded this motion, and gave, as a farther reason, that Mr. Foljambe, being Nephew to Sir George Savile, would have the advantage of his sage counsel and experience; and besides this, his being nominated here would pour balm into the bruized frame of that invaluable man.

Mr.

Mr. CHOLMLEY expressed great respect for Mr. Foljambe, but declared, that as he was a member of an association, self-created, who make Laws for themselves, and who have declared an intention to make great alterations in the Constitution, which he thought would overturn, or greatly impair it, he would vote against him.

Mr. DRUMMOND declared also his disapprobation of Mr. Foljambe, and for much the same reasons: He spoke of the Association with great resentment, and declared them a party which had presumed to take upon themselves to dictate to this County, and to trample on the rights of the most respectable men in it. He distinguished the Parliamentary conduct of Sir George Savile with respect to the Business of the County, and that of the public at large; the former he applauded, but disapproved of the latter.

Mr. FOLJAMBE now came forward, and having lamented the occasion of that Meeting, declared himself aware of the arduous task to which he was now called, and of the necessity there was in these times for activity; that he was therefore resolved to exert himself in their service, if sent to Parliament; and that although he could by no means pretend to the abilities or experience of Sir George Savile, he yet hoped to improve under his friendship and assistance. With respect to the objections brought against him by the two last Gentlemen, that he was a Member of Association, he was so far from denying the fact, that he gloried in having stood foremost in stemming that torrent of corruption which had overwhelmed us at home, and had dismembered the empire by the entire loss of America; he declared that the Gentlemen with whom he had associated, were as respectable and independent a body of men as any who should accuse them; congratulated himself and them that they had already done some good,

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and expressed a sanguine hope that they might yet do more; they had set some bounds already to corruption, and their farther efforts, he affirmed, were not intended to alter, but to revive the Constitution: A fact, which, with regard to the duration of Parliament, was clear to every man, for it was not so long since they were, by their own authority, extended from three to seven years. He then declared that it was not his intention to offer himself to any party of men, but, on the broad basis of the Constitution, which he revered—to the Freeholders of the County at large. He repeated his resolution to set the example of Sir George Savile before him; to imitate it as far as he was able; and hoped, by diligence and attention, to discharge the trust he then solicited, with honesty, and to their satisfaction.

Mr. DUNCOMBE bore testimony to the virtues and abilities of his late Colleague, whose loss he deplored, and whose last political Act he declared to have been his support given to Mr. Pitt's motion for the Reform of Parliament; a Motion made in consequence of the petitions of many Counties besides this, which, though respectable on account of its size, was yet far more so on account of the conduct of its inhabitants, who first called the attention of the public to the corrupt mismanagement of their affairs. He then read a letter from Sir George Savile, in which that excellent man declared an intention, as an individual Constituent, to support, at the election, the person who should be put in nomination at this Meeting.

Gen. HALE, considering the vast power and confidence reposed in Members of Parliament, expressed his wish that an oath of office should be required of them faithfully to discharge their trust, and attend to the instructions of their Constituents; that they should be bound to the repeal of all oppressive laws, of which
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he enumerated but too many; and to reform the corruptions of the Constitution, and, among those, that greatest grievance, the Unequal Representation of the people in Parliament. He approved of Mr. Foljambe.

Col. THORNTON could not patiently hear the Association, of which he was a member, accused without proof; he declared that he had never heard any thing drop from the Gentlemen of that body which was not perfectly Constitutional, and defied any man, who asserted the contrary, to prove his assertion. If the Association had been illegal or unconstitutional, we have lately had a Ministry that would have left no stone unturned to catch at it, which was proof sufficient of its legality.

Mr. STANHOPE again rose, and, in answer to such objections as were made against the Association, declared, that they were so far from being a self-created body, that they were an appointed body, and appointed too by the most respectable Meeting of this County that, perhaps, was ever convened; a Meeting to which those Gentlemen, who *now* objected, then gave the sanction of their own attendance; that they had already done some, and, he trusted, they would persevere till they should do more good. He highly applauded both the public principles and well-known private character of Mr. Foljambe.

Mr. WYVILL expressed his hearty approbation of Mr. Foljambe, and then proceeded to call upon Lord Fauconberg to prove the charges which it had appeared to the Committee of Association he had, previous to the Meeting, brought against them, "That they used deception, and dictated to the County,"—on which

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The Earl of FAUCONBERG came forward, and, though he admitted his presence, as a Peer and Lord Lieutenant, would have been improper on the day of election, contended for his right as a Freeholder, to appear and be heard on the day of only putting a Candidate in nomination. He then averred that he spoke as a Freeholder, and that however Gentlemen might think a society, called an Association of the County of York, legal, he would venture to say it was not legal, none being so but what the laws of the land authorize; and the laws say, that where a grievance is, the counties can apply to the Sheriffs to call a Meeting, but the Sheriffs may judge of the propriety and refuse to call; the right of petitioning, however, he did not dispute. With respect to Associations, he allowed their possible legality, and exemplified it by that of the Lords and Commons at the time of the Revolution, when the king abdicated the crown, and threw the Great Seal into the Thames; but could the same necessity be now supposed, when such a head as that of our present Monarch is incircled with the Imperial Crown; a Monarch who, upon the declaration of parliament, that his own influence had increased, and was increasing, immediately said, "Let the excrescences be lopped off," and afterwards gave his assent that they should be so? He considered the Meeting of the Committee on the preceding day as a controul on the present proceedings, which he deemed illegal. He spoke of Sir George Savile with great respect, the loss of whose services he deeply regretted.

Mr. WYVILL declared that his Lordship's reply did not come up to his question; he had asked where were the deceptions charged against the Association, but not being answered, he had now a right to presume he cannot be answered. With respect to the legality which had been impeached, he begged leave to shew that the word *legal* was not confined only to things required or ordered by law,
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for that it equally and more ordinarily signified things permitted by law; that in a free Meeting this is its necessary meaning, and consequently that a Meeting formed for the purposes of instructing their Representatives, or of agreeing in a resolution not to support those who will not support the Constitution, is perfectly and strictly legal, otherwise this is not a free country. He allowed that tho' an Association is not now so indispensably necessary as at the time of the Revolution, a necessity however subsisted and was apparent; its use was obvious from that very vote in the House of Commons which had been quoted, for it was obtained from that House by the Association. The legality of that body too he said might appear from another circumstance, the Crown Lawyers had consulted on the means of suppressing it, but on consultation, did not find it right to proceed against it. With regard to the controul laid to their charge, he declared they had met the day before as usual in all former cases; they had met the day before the Meeting on the last Election; that standing, as he and the Committee did, responsible to the County, controul would ill become them; that the nomination of a Candidate was not so much as thought of by the Committee, and therefore that to assert they had met to controul this Meeting, is not founded. Mr. Wyvill then proposed a renewal of the County's Petition for a more equal representation in Parliament.

Lord FAUCONBERG said he had seen petitions with many names, but few that he knew to be Freeholders or Men of weight; petitions that stated evils which did not exist; and these he considered as deceptions. He wished Mr. Duncombe had not been chosen by the means of the Association, as he was a man so perfectly agreeable to every description of persons, that he was certain he would not have had a dissenting voice in the county.—There was, however, his Lordship allowed, one abuse which he could

as warmly wish to see reformed as the Association itself, and then declared himself ready to concur in measures for a Reform in Parliament. This moment, he affirmed, requires the assistance of the first characters in the country, and if the measure shall ever come to the House where he sits, he gave an assurance that he will there do his duty to the public; for surely the people are not represented, when Members of Parliament are made in private families. The owner himself either sits for a borough that is his property, or corruptly sells his seat to some person who buys it of him; and venal boroughs, his Lordship observed, should be made to sink into the counties, and the counties should not be represented by only two, their commerce and other business require four or six members to transact it in Parliament. Instead of maintaining a difference with them, he would give the Association his thanks, if they would bring about a Parliamentary Reform.

MR. TOOKER was greatly pleased to find that the Noble Lord had given his approbation to the principles of the Association, which was formed to produce the very points he wished to see effected. The influence of the crown had been supported in the House of Commons; it was confessed in that House, and that resolution by which it was first checked would never have been carried but for our Association; and it is due to our Association that we have seen great characters committed upon great points. He declared the House of Commons not to be the representatives of the people, they were only the representatives of private families, a seat in that House was an article of commerce; and now what has Association done? they have never lost sight of this great Grievance. He did not expect to hear of a self-created Committee, nor of its illegality; he wished, however, that it might be remarked, that the utmost zeal of their opponents had not been able to object a single fact against that Committee, in any one of their transactions,

tions, as a just ground of dissatisfaction; a circumstance amounting to the most honourable acquittal. He declared that on the day before no mention was made in the Committee of a Candidate; professed his pleasure in finding Mr. Foljambe now proposed, as highly qualified to discharge the trust they were about to repose in him.

Sir W. MILNER highly approved of the gentleman nominated; he answered Lord Fauconberg's charge, that the Petitions of the County were not signed by many names of weight, by saying that it was a Petition framed in a Meeting in which the greatest number of persons of weight had appeared, that had ever been known to attend at any County Meeting, and that it had been signed by very far the majority of them; he observed that there were present at this time many persons who had heretofore absented themselves, and that as every Meeting of the County was open to them, their not appearing to oppose might justly be considered as a mark of their approbation.

Mr. WITHERS justified the conduct of those gentlemen who signed the Requisition for calling the previous Meeting of the Committee of Association. He declared they had not exceeded their authority, or done any act tending to controul the voice of the Freeholders at the ensuing election. He stated their Reasons for calling such previous Meeting, the principal of which was, that the Committee might take into their consideration the propriety of proposing to the County a renewal of their Petition to Parliament at the General Meeting held for the election, instead of deferring that business to the 8th of January.

Mr. DRUMMOND excused his absence, as the Meetings had not the sanction of a call from the High-Sheriff.

Mr.

Mr. HILL did not consider the presence of the Sheriff as necessary to legalize a meeting; he supported this opinion by a case in point and judgment upon it. He was happy to hear Lord Fauconberg pledge himself as a friend to the objects of Association, there now subsisted no farther difference than a name between them, and he would willingly meet the Noble Lord, if he should address him in the language of the Poet,

——— Romeo quit thy name,
And in exchange, I'll give thee all myself.

Mr. DRUMMOND thought a Meeting without a Sheriff not a County Meeting, but only a Meeting of the Freeholders, who, however, he owned, might meet.—But

Mr. STANHOPE thought the absence of a Sheriff could hardly make a Meeting of all the Freeholders of a County not a County Meeting.

Lord SURREY desired that if any gentleman had a name to propose, he would do it now, before the question was put on Mr. Foljambe.

Mr. DRUMMOND had no person to propose; he desired, however, not to be considered as acquiescing in Mr. Foljambe's Nomination—he would give his negative to prevent the concurrence of the Meeting being unanimous.

Mr. CHOLMLEY agreed with Mr. Drummond.

The Question was now put on Mr. Foljambe, and it was *Resolved*, That FRANCIS FERRAND FOLJAMBE, of Aldwarke, in this County, Esq; be put in nomination as a proper person to represent

represent this County in Parliament, in the Place of Sir George Savile, Bart.—On which

Mr. FOLJAMBE expressed his warmest gratitude, and declared that, if elected, it should be the study of his life to discharge his duty to his Constituents faithfully and honestly; and concluded with returning his thanks to Lord Surrey who had proposed, and the rest of the Meeting who had supported him.

Mr. WYVILL now rose again, to move the Question of which he had previously given notice. He declined resuming the subject of Association, as so much had been already said upon it this day; he thought, however, the measures he had to propose, were as necessary on this day as ever they had been; and, if called upon, was ready to enter into the proofs.—He owned, however, that he felt himself in a disagreeable situation as a professional man, and wished to be indulged in saying a few words on that subject, as he very well knew that many persons entertained prejudices against Clergymen who took a part in Public Business. At the beginning of these Meetings he was aware of this, but he was not so much afraid of their censure, as he was desirous of discharging his own duty to the public; nor could he see that Clergymen who were equally concerned, and had an equal right with other Freeholders, were liable to blame for standing forward with other Gentlemen in support of what they took to be the Interest of their Country, provided they are always attentive to the *integrity* of their Principles, the *decency* of their conduct, and the *legality* of the Measures in which they engage. That, conscious of his own motives, he had no difficulty to stand forth, and would rest his defence against all such illiberal and narrow censures in a reflection, that he had acted in this whole business as became an *honest and disinterested man*. “If however,” he added, “I shall

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ever see the grounds of the Association shifted, and measures taken, which, in my judgment, must produce violence and commotion; or if, on the other hand, I shall ever be convinced from the general disposition of the Country, and that of this County in particular, that no good is to be expected from Perseverance, I pledge myself to this Meeting that I will retire." He however professed an equally determined resolution to continue his services, and to co-operate with the County, so long as they continued to him the appointment they had already assigned, and acted in the same manner in which they had heretofore done.

Mr. WYVILL now read his two Propositions; and the first, "For renewing the application of this County to Parliament for a more Fair and Equal Representation of the People," passed without alteration;—to the second, which moved "To instruct the Committee of Association to prepare a Petition accordingly, to be laid before the next Meeting of the County," and which was seconded by Mr. Athorpe,

Lord FAUCONBERG objected—he greatly wished for unanimity in the pursuit of so desirable an object as a Reformation of Parliament, but would not yet acknowledge the Association. He expressed his great satisfaction that his family had derived their highest honours from King William in the very year of the Revolution, and, among many other terms of applause, complimented Lord Surrey in having this day, like an honest man, proposed an honest man (Mr. Foljambe) for the nomination of this assembly. He wished for some method in which all might concur.

Mr. WYVILL, therefore, instead of insisting on the particular Committee to be appointed to draw up the Petition, (for which leave had been given) desired that any seven Gentlemen then present

sent might be appointed to prepare and report it to the next Meeting; on which Lord Surrey, Lord Fauconberg, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Mason, Mr. Wyvill, Mr. Tooker, and Mr. Stanhope, were named a Committee for that purpose.

Lord SURREY moved now that the latest possible day might be appointed for the election, as that day would come nearest to the 8th of January, on which the body of the county had before intended to have met, and consequently the day of election would prove the most convenient substitute for the other, which would thus become unnecessary, as the business designed to be transacted on the 8th, might as well be done then, and time would be thus allowed for a general notice. Lord Surrey was sorry and hurt that deceptions had been laid to the charge of a body with which he had acted, and of which he was a member; but desired it might be remembered that the charge was not proved; and concluded by declaring that if any person should, at any subsequent County Meeting, move to dissolve the Association, he would there oppose the motion with his negative; but that, on the contrary, to any motion for its continuance he would give his firm support.

The Sheriff then proposed the first day of January, both for the election, and receiving the renewed Petition of the County from the Committee appointed to prepare it, which was agreed to.— After which Lord Fauconberg moved for the thanks of the county to the High-Sheriff, which passed unanimously. And thus, in consequence of an opportunity to explain on the one side, and candour sufficient to hear and be convinced on the other, the business of the day, which had at first occasioned a debate of some warmth, was happily concluded in perfect harmony, and with the general satisfaction.

last night be appointed to present a report to the next meeting, on which Lord Grey, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Sturges, Mr. Milnes, Mr. W. P. Wood, Mr. T. Sturges, were named as Committee for that purpose.

Lord Grey moved now that the last possible day might be appointed for the election, as that day would come nearest to the 31st of January, on which the body of the county had before intended to have met, and consequently the day of election would have the most convenient situation for the other, which would thus become unnecessary, as the business designed to be transacted on the 6th, might as well be done then, and time would be thus allowed for a general notice. Lord Grey was sorry and that that declaration had been laid in the charge of a body which it had not, and at which it was a member, but desired it might be remembered that that charge was not proved, and concluded by declaring that if any person should, at any subsequent County Meeting, move to dissolve the Association, he would thereupon resign the station with him, and that of the county, to say nothing for its continuance he would give his assistance.

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The 24th was proposed the last day of January, both for the election, and receiving the renewed sanction of the County from the Committee appointed to prepare it, which was agreed to. After which Lord Lansdowne moved for the 31st of the county to the 11th of the month, which being carried, and that in consequence of an opportunity to explain on the one side, and another (in relation to him) and be convinced on the other, the business of the day, which had at first occasioned a debate of some extent, was happily concluded in perfect harmony, and with the general satisfaction.

